



## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
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### **Town of Maine Annexations**

On February 3, 2016, the City of Wausau and Mayor James E. Tipple filed a lawsuit against the Village of Maine and Village officials Betty Hoenisch, Tad Schult and Keith Rusch. The lawsuit was filed in Marathon County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit alleges that the defendants developed a strategy to incorporate the Town of Maine, and enter into a boundary agreement with the Village of Brokaw and the Town of Texas, during the course of numerous closed and improperly noticed meetings held in violation of the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. The lawsuit alleges that one purpose of the incorporation and boundary agreement is to prevent landowners in Maine and Texas from choosing to annex their land to the City of Wausau.

Since December 7, 2015, Maine landowners have filed 13 petitions with the City of Wausau. During the time of the Open Meeting Law violations, these Maine landowners were unaware, and had no way to know, that the defendants were planning to incorporate the town of Maine, and were unaware that incorporation would prevent them from annexing to the City of Wausau. Once they became aware, they petitioned the City for annexation. On February 2, 2016, the Common Council of the City of Wausau enacted an ordinance approving the annexation of territory pursuant to 10 of the annexation petitions. The remaining petitions continue to be processed by the City.

The lawsuit asks the court to determine that the defendants violated the Open Meetings Law, to void the incorporation of the Town of Maine, and to void Maine's current boundary planning process. The lawsuit seeks to allow the Maine landowners who have petitioned to annex their properties to the City of Wausau, to do so.

Any questions regarding this matter should be directed to the attorney's representing the City in this matter, whose contact information is as follows:

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